

September 25, 1949.

Dr. Samuel J. Ajl,
Dept. Bacteriology,
Washington University Medical School,
St. Louis 10, Mo.

Dear Ajl:

Under separate cover, I have sent you *E. coli* K-12, wild type, and #58, a biotinless mutant. The mutant was isolated by Dr. Tatum, who has described it briefly: *PNAS* 30: 494, 1944 and *JEC* 160: 455, 1945.

Dr. H. A. Lardy of our biochemistry department has had some work done on this mutant from the point of view of replacement of the biotin requirement, and it might be to your advantage to communicate with him if your interests lie in this direction.

#58 may be sufficiently unstable as to require some caution in its use: reisolate from nutrient agar, or other complete medium; use small inocula and if possible, avoid prolonged incubation periods which select for biotin-independent reversions.

Dr. Bernard Davis, in N.Y., probably has additional biotinless mutants of *E. coli* if #58 should be unsatisfactory.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Assistant Professor of Genetics.